

Application No. 10/719,377
Response to Restriction Requirement

Patent
Attorney Docket No. 86147-14
(Formerly: OCTASIC-001)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re: U.S. Patent Application of Thomas Jefferson AWAD et al.
Application No.: 10/719,377 Group Art Unit: 2683
Filed: November 21, 2003 Examiner: Danh C. LE
Entitled: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING ECHO IN A
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 16 2006, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group 1 (claims 1-32 and 41) for prosecution in the subject application, with traverse. A petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is attached hereto.

The traversal is on the grounds that the Examiner has failed to establish that a search of the complete application would be an undue burden as required by MPEP 803. MPEP 803 states: “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” It is Applicants’ position that the Examiner has failed to establish that a search of the entire application constitutes an undue burden. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the entire application be searched and examined.

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SMART & BIGGAR

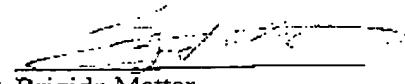
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In accordance with this election with traverse, applicants reserve all rights in the non-elected claims, including the right to file one or more divisional applications covering the subject matter thereof.

Respectfully submitted,
SMART & BIGGAR


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Date: May 3, 2006

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